

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of processing commands comprising  
receiving and storing in a memory a first command line interface, the first  
command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of a first board  
5 type;  
receiving and storing in memory a second command line interface, the second  
command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of the first board  
type; and  
processing a first command using the first command line interface and a  
10 second command using the second command line interface, the first command and the  
second commands addressed to boards having the first board type.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising routing a single command to  
multiple boards using the first command line interface.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second commands are CLI  
commands.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising converting the first and  
20 second commands from a first protocol to a second protocol.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the first protocol is CLI and the second  
protocol is SNMP.

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6. A system for downloading a software image, the system comprising:  
a plurality of boards, each of the boards having a slot number and a chassis  
number;

5 a network management station having an interface, the interface allowing an  
operator to enter a command, the command having a destination slot number and  
destination chassis number;

a system manager coupled to the network management station and to the  
plurality of boards, the system manager storing a plurality of command line interfaces,  
10 each of the command line interfaces processing commands addressed to boards  
having a board type and a version number;

wherein the system manager determines the destination slot number and  
chassis number of the command, and wherein the command line interface associated  
with the slot number and the chassis number processes the command;

15 wherein one of the plurality of boards is updated with a new image and a new  
command line interface, and wherein, thereafter, a command having a destination of  
the slot number and chassis number of the board is routed to the new command line  
interface, and

wherein commands addressed to others of the plurality of boards of the same  
20 board type as the one of the plurality of boards are routed to other of the command  
line interfaces.

7. A method for downloading a software image, the method comprising:

receiving a software image, the software image including a first command line interface, the command line interface for processing commands addressed to at least one board, the at least one board having a first board type and a first version number;

storing the first command line interface in memory; and

5 receiving a command at the first command line interface, the command addressed to the at least one board, processing the command at the first command line interface, and forwarding the command to the at least one board.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

10 receiving a second image having a second command line interface and storing the second command line interface in the memory, the second command line interface for processing commands addressed to boards of the first board type and a second version number; and

thereafter, processing some commands using the first command interface and  
15 other commands using the second command interface.

9. A system manager, the system manager comprising:

a memory, the memory for storing a first command line interface, the first command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of a first board type, the  
20 memory also receiving and storing a second command line interface, the second command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of the first board type; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor for processing a first command using the first command line interface and a second command using the second command line interface, the first command and the second commands addressed to boards having the first board type.

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10. The system manager of claim 9 wherein the processor receives commands addressed to multiple boards and routes the boards to the multiple destinations.

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11. The system manager of claim 9 wherein the commands are CLI commands.

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12. The system manager of claim 9 wherein the commands are converted from a first format to a second format.

13. The system manager of claim 12 wherein the second format is SNMP.

14. A system for processing commands comprising:

means for receiving and storing in a memory a first command line interface,  
20 the first command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of a first board type;

means for receiving and storing in memory a second command line interface, the second command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of the first board type; and

means for processing a first command using the first command line interface  
5 and a second command using the second command line interface, the first command and the second commands addressed to boards having the first board type.

15. The system of claim 14 further comprising means for routing a single command to multiple boards using the first command line interface.

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16 A computer program for processing commands comprising  
first code for receiving and storing in a memory a first command line interface, the first command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of a first board type;

15 second code for receiving and storing in memory a second command line interface, the second command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of the first board type; and

third code for processing a first command using the first command line interface and a second command using the second command line interface, the first  
20 command and the second commands addressed to boards having the first board type.

17. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

processing commands comprising;

receiving and storing in a memory a first command line interface, the first command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of a first board type;

- 5 receiving and storing in memory a second command line interface, the second command line interface processing commands addressed to boards of the first board type; and

processing a first command using the first command line interface and a second command using the second command line interface, the first command and the

- 10 second commands addressed to boards having the first board type.

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